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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184447
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USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: 1979 OECD BUDGET

REF: (A) 1977 STATE 171131; (B) LAASE-LANGHAUG TELECON

1. SUMMARY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF 1979 OECD WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET WILL TAKE PLACE AT JULY 21 HEADS OF DELEGATIONS MEETING ON BASIS OF PRESENTATION BY SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP. THERE FOLLOWS
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PAGE 02 STATE 184447

POINTS WHICH U.S. REP SHOULD MAKE FOR THE RECORD DURING THE DISCUSSION, WHICH POINTS WE HOPE WILL ASSIST THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT IN PREPARING THE 1977 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE FOUND THE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET PRESENTATION

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OF THE LAST FEW YEARS, WHICH CLEARLY INDICATES THE RE-
SOURCES REQUIRED FOR EACH PROPOSED PROGRAM, MOST HELPFUL
IN OUR ANALYSIS. WE HOPE THAT SUCH A PRESENTATION WILL BE
CONTINUED.

3. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING
PRIORITIES WITHIN THE COMMITTEES' PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMS
IN ORDER TO JUDGE WHICH PROJECTS/PROGRAMS ARE MOST
ESSENTIAL. COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE NOT DONE SO SHOULD BE
ASKED TO ASSIGN PRIORITIES TO COMPONENT PARTS OF THEIR
1979 WORK PROGRAM. WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR REQUEST
OF LAST YEAR THAT A PROCEDURE BE DEVELOPED FOR RANKING ALL
OECD PROGRAMS/PROJECTS IN RELATION TO EACH OTHER IN ORDER
TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES ON AN OVERALL BASIS AS WELL AS
WITHIN COMMITTEES. WE BELIEVE SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD
FACILITATE SHIFTING RESOURCES FROM LOW TO HIGH PRIORITY
ITEMS, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IF THE OECD BUDGET IS TO BE
KEPT WITHIN REASONABLE BOUNDS AS NEW PROJECTS ARE UNDER-
TAKEN BY THE ORGANIZATION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS MAY BE
DIFFICULT IN AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH OPERATES
ON A CONSENSUS BASIS, BUT WE URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL
AND MEMBERS TO TRY TO DEVELOP SUCH A SYSTEM.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE SECRE-
TARIAT'S PROFESSIONAL STAFF ARE ON INDEFINITE TENURE
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CONTRACTS WHILE ABOUT 30 PERCENT ARE ON FIXED TERM
CONTRACTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARIAT'S FLEXIBILITY
WOULD BE ENHANCED IF, OVER TIME, THIS COULD BE CHANGED TO
A MORE EQUAL RATIO OF INDEFINITE TENURE TO FIXED TERM
PROFESSIONAL STAFF.

5. GIVEN THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO INDEFINITE TENURE
PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND THE RESULTS OF SEVERAL YEARS OF
ESSENTIALLY NO REAL GROWTH IN THE OECD BUDGET, WE RECOGNIZE
THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR INTERNAL REPROGRAMMING OF SECRE-
TARIAT RESOURCES ARE LIMITED. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE
1979 WORK PROGRAM IS LIKELY TO REFLECT THE MEMBERS'
DESIRE FOR NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS IN AREAS SUCH AS
POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES, LONGER-TERM STRUCTURAL
PROBLEMS AND RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHILE
URGING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF IN-
TERNAL REPROGRAMMING IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1979 BUDGET,
THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT A VERY MODEST INCREASE IN
REAL RESOURCES NEXT YEAR.

6. YOU WILL RECALL OUR CONCERN, EXPRESSED IN PREVIOUS
YEARS, ABOUT THE NEED TO UPGRADE AND POSSIBLY REORGANIZE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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THE ORGANIZATION'S AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THE STUDY NOW UNDERWAY IN THIS AREA AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM, BUT WE BELIEVE THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD NOT TRY TO MOVE TOO FAR, TOO FAST IN THIS EFFORT.

7. WE INDICATED LAST YEAR THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD EXPAND ITS MICRO-ECONOMIC CAPABILITIES. IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT AND PROBABLE FUTURE INTEREST OF THE ORGANIZATION

IN MICRO-ECONOMIC RELATED AREAS, SUCH AS POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES AND STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS, THE U.S. COULD
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PAGE 04 STATE 184447

SUPPORT SOME FURTHER MODEST ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN THIS AREA.

8. YOU WILL RECALL OUR PREVIOUS REMARKS ABOUT THE NEED FOR IMPROVED COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG THE SECRETARIAT'S VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, DIRECTORATES AND STAFFS. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO IN THIS AREA. WE HOPE THESE EFFORTS WILL BE CONTINUED AND EXPANDED.

9. WE NOTE WITH CONSIDERABLE REGRET THE RELATIVELY FEW WOMEN ON THE SECRETARIAT'S PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND TRUST THAT A SERIOUS EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO INCREASE THEIR NUMBER.

10. THE OECD WORK PROGRAM CHANGES OVER TIME AS THE ORGANIZATION ADDRESSES NEW PROBLEM AREAS AND, IN RESPONSE, FROM TIME TO TIME NEW COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES HAVE BEEN CREATED. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A POINT WHERE THE ORGANIZATION'S PRESENT COMMITTEE AND SUBSIDIARY BODY STRUCTURE SHOULD BE REEXAMINED, TO ENSURE THAT IT ADEQUATELY REFLECTS CURRENT REALITIES. THE UNITED STATES, AND WE HOPE OTHER MEMBERS AS WELL, WOULD WELCOME A PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF COMMITTEES OR SUBSIDIARY BODIES WHICH MAY HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFULNESS AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF OTHERS. VANCE

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